

memorandum

DATE: July 17, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacie Hensley
Civil Engineering – TELF-TPP-4

Proposed Action: McNary-Ross Tower 137/4 Replacement

PP&A Project No.: 2945

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Location: Skamania County, Washington; in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) The Dalles District

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to replace tower 137/4 on the McNary-Ross No. 1 transmission line because the tower is threatened by ground slide movement. The tower is located about 2.5 miles north of Stevenson, Washington. The existing lattice steel tower would be replaced by two lattice towers placed on either side of the potential slide area: one 250 feet ahead-on-line and one 450 feet back-on-line. Landings and work areas for the new towers would be located within 200 feet of the new tower locations.

An existing access road from Skaar Road would be improved to a distance of 1600 feet to allow equipment access and reduce future erosion. The original tower would be retired and no retired BPA equipment or other waste would be left on site. All work would occur on private timber company property within the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area.

Following the excavation and placement of soil for the towers, all disturbed areas would be stabilized for erosion and sediment control, and seeded with an appropriate seed mix. Equipment that would be likely to be used for this project, and would be likely to disturb the ground, would include a combination of the following: line trucks, dump trucks, graders, backhoes, excavators and crew trucks.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the

environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Andrew Chang

Andrew Chang
Biological Scientist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 17, 2014

Attachments:
Effects Determination

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: McNary Ross Tower 137/4 Replacement

Work Order #: 00339119

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Cultural resources Survey Performed by Applied Archaeological Research. Concurrence of "No Effect" by WA SHPO 06/24/2014. If scope of project changes substantially, additional consultation may be needed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No federal T&E avian, or aquatic or terrestrial species identified during review.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No in-stream or wetland work proposed for current project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No in stream work	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) USFS Consulted because proposed activity is within Columbia Scenic Gorge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Wautoma-Ostrander No. 1 Access Road (Emergency) Maintenance Project Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Andrew B. Chang

Date: 07/15/14

Andrew Chang, KEP-4